

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 233044

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 IO-13 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00

OMB-01 EUR-12 ACDA-07 NRC-05 OES-06 ERDA-05 AID-05

IGA-02 STR-04 /116 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN:OSM

APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BONGO'S PRIVATE VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BONGO DEPARTED  
SEPT 18 AFTER A GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL PRIVATE  
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2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE AND IN REMARKS DELIVERED AT DINNER HOSTED BY UNSYG, BONGO PLAYED OUT ROLE OF FUTURE OAU CHAIRMAN, "TALKING ON THE LEFT WHILE HIS HEART REMAINS ON THE RIGHT" (AS HE LATER EXPLAINED TO TEMPELSMAN). IN BOTH FORA HE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM REGARDING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA AND QUESTIONED UTILITY OF DEALING WITH VORSTER. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HE PRAISED THE SECRETARY FOR HIS EFFORTS BUT LONDERED WHO HAD ASKED HIM TO COME TO AFRICA AND WHO HE WAS REPRESENTING. WHILE HE SAID THAT WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE IN AFRICA, HE ARGUED THAT TIME FOR DIALOGUE WITH THEM WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA HAS PASSED. IN RESPONDING TO WALDHEIM'S AFTER-DINNER REMARKS, BONGO

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PESSIMISM THAN HAD WALDHEIM REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER SAYING THAT UN MUST GET THE GREAT POWERS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. HE DEFENDED WITHDRAWAL FROM OCAM ON THE GROUND THAT IT IS NOT NEEDED GIVEN THE OAU AND UN. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HE PARTIALLY DEFENDED THE FRENCH SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO SOUTH AFRICA, SAYING THAT AT LEAST IT WAS OVERT WHILE OTHERS AID SOUTH AFRICA COVERTLY. HE CONTRASTED BLACK-WHITE RELATIONS IN GABON TODAY WITH

EXPLOITIVE RELATIONS UNDER COLONIALISM, NOTING THAT WHITES AND BLACKS HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AT THE WORK BENCH, MUCH AS THEY DO IN THE US.

4. MOST OF MEETING BETWEEN GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND BONGO WAS SPENT IN JUSTIFYING BONGO'S INTEREST IN INCREASED MILITARY AID. HE SPOKE AT LENGTH ON HOW RESPONSIVE OTHER COUNTRIES (PHILIPPINES, MOROCCO) HAD BEEN TO HIS REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE DEPRECATED FRENCH MILITARY AID SAYING THAT MOST OF IT WAS ON A CASH BASIS. HE SAID HE HAD TURNED BACK THE PLANE OFFERED HIM AS A GIFT SINCE IT HAD ANTIQUE ARMAMENT HE HAD USED WHILE IN THE AIR FORCE. HE CONTRASTED SOVIET OFFER TO SELL HIM MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITH CHINESE GRANT OF TWO SMALL CRAFT. GOVERNOR SCRANTON TOLD BONGO THAT HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO BE HELPFUL IN MEETING WHAT HE HAD NOT APPRECIATED WAS BONGO'S TOP PRIORITY INTEREST; HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NO DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY IN SECURITY MATTERS. GOVERNOR SCRANTON THANKED BONGO FOR THE ASSISTANCE HIS COUNTRY HAD PROVIDED THE US ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

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6. AF/C DIRECTOR BUCHANAN SOUGHT TO PERSUADE BONGO THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO BE RESPONSIVE TO HIS SECURITY NEEDS BUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN GENERAL, AND SPECIFICALLY TO A COUNTRY AS WEALTHY AS GABON MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR USG TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS BONGO WOULD LIKE. BONGO INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD RELUCTANTLY THAT ANY AID MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE THE FORM OF CREDITS TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT IN RELATIVELY SMALL SUMS DOLED OUT OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

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PAGE 05 STATE 233044

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233044

PARIS FOR MELONE

FOLOWING REPEAT STATE 233044 ACTION LIBREVILLE DTD 20 SEP 76.

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 20 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT BONGO'S PRIVATE VISIT TO US  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, GB, US, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)  
**To:** LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006